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Subject: [External] Weekly Briefing: Our rogue General Assembly returns to Raleigh for yet another rump session

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NC POLICY WATCH

Stories & voices
that **matter.**

Weekly Briefing:

Our rogue General Assembly returns to Raleigh for yet another rump session Why the legislature now operates this way and why it's a big problem

By [Rob Schofield](#)

The North Carolina General Assembly (or, at least, a goodly portion of it) returned to town last night. Nearly four months after having passed a new state budget—the event that used to signal the conclusion of an annual legislative session—lawmakers are back yet again.

The top agenda item this time for our “part-time” lawmakers: to override Governor Cooper’s veto of [a bill to alter state elections passed during their last cameo appearance in the state capital](#). At least, that’s what we think the plan is. No one knows for sure. The move comes just days after legislative leaders had stated publicly that no such action would be taken until at least January of 2018.

This makes roughly a half dozen times this year that lawmakers have convened, departed and returned. Though legislative leaders have wised up (at least from a P.R. perspective) and stopped always referring to their serial returns to Jones Street, as “special sessions,” (there were at least five of such sessions in 2016—remember the HB2 session and the pre-holidays session to undermine Roy Cooper?) that is, effectively, what’s been going on with great regularity for several years. Rather than coming to Raleigh for a single annual session and then returning upon its conclusion to their homes, jobs and families as was long the tradition in the state, lawmakers—especially since Republicans assumed control back in 2011—now operate under a new model.

In the new system, the General Assembly is essentially always subject to being called into and out of session in short order depending on the political wants and whims of a handful of powerful leaders—most notably Senate President *Pro Tem* Phil Berger and House Speaker Tim Moore. Some special sessions have even been called, for tactical reasons, with just a few hours’ notice and while legislators were already in Raleigh. [\[Read more...\]](#)

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Weekly Editorial Cartoon:

By John Cole



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Daily News:

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- Veto overrides by GOP mark Democratic governor's 1st year

A.P./WRAL.com

- NC Senate votes to override election law veto
WRAL.com
- House considers N Carolina governor's veto of election bill
A.P./WBT.com
- New turn on old complaint: Partisan gerrymanders targeted in NC suit
WRAL.com
- Tired of waiting, Cooper wants appointees to 3 boards OK'd
WRAL.com
- CFPUA files suit against Chemours, DuPont over toxic GenX
Wilmington Star News
- Two Greensboro families pledge more than \$60 million to UNC-CH
Greensboro News & Record
- 'How the hell did North Carolina get away with this?' Media react to NCAA ruling on UNC
Raleigh News & Observer
- Panel looks at moving UNC system out of Chapel Hill
Raleigh News & Observer
- Raleigh mayor fires back at challenger as runoff election approaches
Raleigh News & Observer
- Durham schools announce new superintendent
WRAL.com
- Walking fine line, Pittenger praises Trump but campaigns with his critic
Charlotte Observer
- He was one of the Central Park Five. Now he's talking about Trump and his wrongful conviction.
Raleigh News & Observer
- Feds: Wells Fargo divisions gave bad investment advice, must repay customers \$3.4 million
Winston Salem Journal
- Cumberland County approves incentive deal for \$44-million distribution center
The Fayetteville Observer
- Chairman Brownie Newman: Cut pay for top Buncombe County staff, commissioners.
Asheville Citizen Times
- DHHS says first week of flu season has no related deaths
Journalnow.com

Daily Editorials:

- Why is Trump governing out of spite?
Raleigh News & Observer
- AMAZON - It's 2017 and we need to play to win
WRAL.com
- Shortage of mental health providers hurts us all
Wilmington Star News
- Elon welcomes back a home-grown leader
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- Health insurance train wreck on the way
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